

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SIG-03 SOE-02 AF-10
ARA-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-12 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: JUNE 16 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR, HELSINKI FOR ASAT

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1. WALTER PINCUS OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT WHITE
HOUSE HAS DELAYED FOR TWO MONTHS GO-AHEAD ON PRODUCTION OF
LANCE MISSILE NUCLEAR WARHEADS AND EIGHT-INCH SHELLS BE-
CAUSE OF AN INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION DISPUTE OVER PLAN TO
CONVERT THEM QUICKLY INTO NEUTRON WEAPONS. PINCUS RECALLED
THAT LAST APRIL 7 CARTER, IN DEFERRING PRODUCTION OF NEU-
TRON WARHEADS, ORDERED "MODERNIZATION" OF LANCE WARHEAD

AND EIGHT-INCH SHELL. "SIGNIFICANT OMISSION IN PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT AND HIS ORDERS TO PENTAGON TO IMPLEMENT THEM WAS THAT 'MODERNIZATION' MEANT BUILDING SAME NEW NUCLEAR WARHEADS AND SHELLS AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED IN NEUTRON PROGRAM-BUT LEAVING-OUT CORE ELEMENTS WHICH TRANSFORM THEM FROM CONVENTIONAL NUCLEAR WEAPON INTO NEUTRON WEAPON.... ADMINISTRATION SOURCES SAID YESTERDAY THAT NEUTRON COMPONENTS ONCE BUILT CAN EASILY -- WITH SOME TECHNICAL WORK -- BE INSERTED IN NEW LANCE WARHEADS AND EIGHT-INCH SHELLS TO MAKE THEM NEUTRON WEAPONS LONG AFTER WARHEADS AND SHELLS HAD BEEN DEPLOYED TO EUROPE.... AC-

CORDING TO DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY OFFICIALS, PRESIDENTIAL GO-AHEAD ON 'MODERNIZATION' PROGRAM HAD BEEN EXPECTED BEFORE END OF APRIL. DELAY IN PRODUCTION GO-AHEAD, ACCORDING TO INFORMED SOURCES, STEMS FROM BUREAUCRATIC ARGUMENTS IN ADMINISTRATION OVER WHETHER TO PROCEED WITH TWO-STEP PROGRAM OR BUILD BOTH NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND NEUTRON CORE ELEMENTS AT SAME TIME. ACCORDING TO WHITE HOUSE SOURCES, PRESIDENT'S ORIGINAL INTENT WAS TO GO AHEAD WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND WAIT 18 MONTHS BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH NEUTRON CORE ELEMENTS. IN THAT TIME, SOVIETS WOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE SOME RESPONSE WHICH, IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE, WOULD FURTHER DELAY OR ELIMINATE PRODUCTION OF NEUTRON CORES. OUTSIDE WHITE HOUSE, HOWEVER, PRESSURE FROM NEUTRON WEAPON SUPPORTERS UNCLASSIFIED

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ON CAPITOL HILL HAS PUSHED DEFENSE AND ENERGY DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS TO PRESS FOR PRODUCTION OF SHELLS AND WARHEADS ALONG WITH NEUTRON COMPONENTS. LATTER WOULD BE STOCK-PILED IN U.S. WHEN WEAPONS ARE SENT TO NATO FORCES IN EUROPE."

2. KENNETH BRIGGS OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED FROM ATLANTA THAT 22,000 DELEGATES TO 133TH ANNUAL SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION APPROVED WITHOUT OPPOSITION RESOLUTION CALLING FOR MULTILATERAL ARMS CONTROL. IN ADOPTING FIRST SUCH RESOLUTION EVER SUBMITTED TO CONVENTION, BRIGGS SAID SOUTHERN BAPTISTS JOINED BROAD RANGE OF RELIGIOUS GROUPS EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT ARMS CONTROL. RESOLUTION URGES U.S. OFFICIALS TO "MOVE IN IMAGINATIVE AND RECONCILING WAYS TO SEEK MUTUAL AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER NATIONS TO SLOW ARMS RACE." IT CALLS FOR "SHIFT OF FUNDS FROM NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO BASIC HUMAN NEEDS." BRIGGS SAID "GESTURE WAS LATEST IN SERIES OF SIGNS THAT DISARMAMENT ISSUE IS STIRRING RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN EVANGELICAL CIRCLES AS WELL AS IN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND LIBERAL PROTESTANT DENOMINATIONS. MANY OF THOSE GROUPS HAVE COALESCED AROUND SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT AT

UNITED NATIONS." BRIGGS SAID MANY TOP EVANGELICAL FIGURES WERE AMONG SIGNERS OF STATEMENT ON DISARMAMENT ISSUED IN CONJUNCTION WITH SSOD BY COMMUNITY OF WASHINGTON EVANGELICAL SOCIAL ACTIVISTS CALLED SOJOURNERS. "STATEMENT LIKE MANY IN CURRENT WAVE WAS SHARPLY CRITICAL OF U.S. POLICY ON PRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR ARMS.... MANY OBSERVERS NOTE LINK BETWEEN WIDESPREAD RESPONSE TO HUNGER CRISIS FEW YEARS AGO AND CURRENT CONCERN FOR DISARMAMENT. ONE OF FREQUENT ARGUMENTS AGAINST ARMS PROLIFERATION IS THAT SPENDING HEAVILY FOR WEAPONS DEPLETES RESOURCES NEEDED TO COMBAT POVERTY AND STARVATION."

3. WASHINGTON POST PUBLISHED DISPATCH FROM VIENNA QUOTING

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NATO SPOKESMAN AS SAYING THAT SOVIET BLOC'S WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT EQUAL FORCE LEVELS IN CENTRAL EUROPE WAS MOVE OF QUESTIONABLE VALUE. NATO SPOKESMAN SAID COMMUNIST OFFER TO CUT SOVIET ARMY STRENGTH BY ABOUT 30,000 MEN "FALLS FAR SHORT OF WHAT WEST HAS PROPOSED."

4. BALTIMORE SUN REPORTED THAT SENATOR CHARLES MATHIAS, CLAIMING CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS "MYSTIFIED WHERE IT SOUGHT TO CLARIFY," URGED PRESIDENT TO MAKE "CONSISTENT AND COHERENT" CASE FOR ARMS CONTROL. IN GENERAL, MATHIAS SAID HE SUPPORTED SALT TWO AGREEMENT AS HE UNDERSTOOD IT, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT CARTER HAS NOT MADE HIS CASE WELL. MATHIAS, SPEAKING IN BOSTON, SAID PRESIDENT'S ANNAPOLIS SPEECH "READS LIKE AN ANTIPHONAL CHORUS BETWEEN DOVE AND HAWK." HE SAID HE LOOKED IN VAIN FOR "ANY STATEMENT THAT WOULD MAKE IT CLEAR TO AMERICAN PEOPLE WHY SALT TWO AGREEMENT CAN PROMOTE OUR NATIONAL INTEREST IN WAYS THAT ARE REALLY UNRELATED TO OTHER ISSUES, SUCH AS SOVIET ACTIVITY IN AFRICA OR EVEN HUMAN RIGHTS." MATHIAS SUPPORTED ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO KEEP SALT NEGOTIATIONS DISTINCT FROM OTHER ISSUES IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS. "OBVIOUSLY. WE HAVE REACHED DANGEROUS STATE OF AFFAIRS," MATHIAS SAID, "WHEN NEITHER FRIEND NOR FOE CAN SAY WITH ANY CERTAINTY WHAT U.S. POLICY IS TOWARD WORLD'S OTHER GREAT NUCLEAR POWER. GRAVITY OF DANGER IS COMPOUNDED WHEN EVEN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS DON'T KNOW WHERE TO GO FOR RIGHT ANSWERS." HE SAID "IT IS PRESIDENT'S JOB TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT COUNTRY KEEPS FOREIGN POLICY CONTROVERSIES IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE. HE MUST SOMEHOW GET ACROSS TO AMERICAN PEOPLE EXACTLY WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR HUMANITY IN NUCLEAR ARMS TALKS." NEWSOM

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